CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHA POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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MAY DAY '24

FROM THE RIVERS TO THE SEAS, COMMUNISM WILL SET US FREE!





The following is an excerpt of the main speech that will be given on May 4 at the Brooklyn, NY May Day march.

Fellow workers from the international working class, veterans, new, and future members of PLP—Happy May Day!

There is no holiday like May Day. It's the only day when we unite as one international working class to celebrate our collective struggles and triumphs. It's the only day where we wave the red flag, the only flag, symbolizing our courage, power, and vision for a new world when we will all be rid of the oppressive chains that bind us.

Whether it's your first May Day or your 50th, or whether you're watching from your window or passing by, being here with you is an honor. May Day is the day we in the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) celebrate our history of internationalism, antiracism, antisexism, and communist revolution. We are a revolutionary organization committed to fighting for a world in which workers will own, share, and run all of society—a communist world.

For more than half a century we have been a fighting Party standing shoulder to shoulder with striking auto, transit, mining, factory, farm, and education workers on the picket lines from the U.S. to Mexico to Pakistan. We organized against the U.S. rulers' slaughter in Vietnam. PLP championed antiracist rebellions against police murder in Ferguson, Chicago, Missouri, LA. We took the streets of Flatbush for Kimani, Kyam, and Shantel. It is an honor to be celebrating my ninth May Day as a member of PLP and to contribute to this long tradition of fightback with the vision that one day millions of workers will flood the streets and drown this rotten capitalist system in the bottom of the sea.

Since October 7, the streets have erupted with workers' collective rage against genocide. From Michigan to Yemen, the masses marched to the rhythm of one slogan: From the River to the sea, Palestine will be free! With revolutionary potential, dock workers from Belgium to India refused to load weapons for Israel. Workers shut down bridges and blocked airports from NYC to San Francisco. Students at Columbia University, NYU, and other campuses are risking suspension, expulsion, and deportation to take a brave stance against genocide.

Today we celebrate May Day under increasingly dangerous times for the international working class. For 210 days, the Israeli rulers have bombed Gaza

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JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION





OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Anti-genocide students defy liberal fascist attacks

On April 18, Columbia University President Nemat "Minouche" Shafik directed the New York Police Department to arrest 108 students. The students' crime? They were encamped on a campus lawn to protest Israel's racist murder of tens of thousands of Palestinians, as well as Columbia's investments in companies that profit from the Zionist regime's genocide and apartheid (see article on page 3). The incident marked the killer kkkops' first invasion of Columbia in decades. To some it recalled the 1968 eruption against the University's racist expansion into Harlem and the U.S. rulers' genocide in Vietnam, when a police riot ended with nearly seven hundred students arrested and more than one hundred injured (Washington Post, 4/18).

The recent wave of campus lockdowns, suspensions of pro-Palestine students, banning of pro-Palestine groups, firings of anti-Zionist workers—all are signs that the U.S. bosses' can't rely on liberal democracy to gain mass support for the genocidal project in Gaza. More broadly, as they look ahead to the racist austerity they'll need in the runup to World War Three, the bosses are determined to pacify and intimidate workers by any means necessary. We're nearing the point where the U.S. rulers can no longer afford the phony spectacles of "freedom of speech" or "freedom of assembly." As they struggle to fend off rival imperialists in China and Russia, their only alternative is to unleash fascist terror in a bid to save their crumbling empire. That's the message they're sending at Columbia and dozens of other campuses.

The bosses' strategic weakness

But with every starved and murdered Palestinian child, the lies and desperation of the bosses' liberal politicians—from Genocide Joe Biden on down—are revealed for all to see. Strong-arm tactics are often a sign of strategic weakness—and students and education workers are fighting back! As CHALLENGE goes to press, anti-racist Columbia students—including many anti-Zionist Jewish students—are defiantly resisting Shafik's orders to disband the encampment. Four days after the arrests, hundreds of outraged Columbia faculty walked out in solidarity (Guardian, 4/22). So have hundreds of CUNY and local high school students. Dozens of students have braved arrest at NYU, Yale, and the University of Minnesota. Others have fought with cops at the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Southern California (Associated Press, 4/24). Anti-genocide encampments and occupations have sprung up across the country (New York Times, 4/24).

These bold resisters have a historic message for sanitation, transportation, and industrial workers around the world: We can take on the bosses' system, build confidence in our class, and lay the foundation for a revolution that will wipe every capitalist, every backer of genocide, off the face of the earth. That is what Progressive Labor Party fights for!

Declining U.S. imperialism spurs fascist attacks

Amid the deepening crisis of worldwide capitalism, Israel is a forward base for maintaining fragile U.S. dominance over Middle Eastern oil. It's the counterweight to Iran, backed by China and Russia, and Iran's proxy armies in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Yemen—as well as Hamas, the Iranian ally that poisons workers with nationalism and religion. As tensions between Israel and Iran continue to escalate (see CHALLENGE, 4/24), and the U.S. seems unable to stop Israel from invading Rafah and endangering the lives of more than a million Palestinian refugees, a dangerous new phase in this regional war is unfolding.

We're seeing the crackdown on college campuses against this backdrop of U.S. imperialist decline. Peeling back their liberal mask, the main-wing capitalists of finance capital are out to squash any opposition to the genocidal Israeli regime. While right-wing Trumpers like Rep. Elise Stefanik may be grabbing the headlines, it's the liberals' well-paid front people, from the Democratic Party to the bastions of elite miseducation—who are bringing down the hammer. Before taking the top job at Columbia, Nemat Shafik made her mark as an outspoken reformer at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In her book, What We Owe Each Other, she denounces "a winner-takes-all business culture that offers the spoils of capitalism only to those that rise to the top" (Guardian, 1/22/22).

But scratch one of the bosses' liberal stooges and you'll find a budding fascist. On April 17, when Shafik appeared before Stefanik's congressional committee, she couldn't roll over fast enough to name names and disclose confidential disciplinary proceedings against professors (NYT, 4/17). Feeding into the false narrative of rampant antisemitism on campuses, she eagerly agreed that the Palestinian liberation slogan—"from the river to the sea"—should probably be censored (NYT, 4/17). So much for "academic freedom"!

From NYC to Rafah, nationalism is deadly

One key to fighting rising fascism is to expose the dangers of nationalism and its toxic sibling, identity politics. It was the Egyptian-born Shafik, Columbia's first woman and first Arab president, who sicced the Klan-in-blue on students, many of whom were Arab. The NYPD is led by a Latin commissioner who spends every day overseeing racist police terror against the Latin, Black, and immigrant working class in New York City. He works for a Black mayor, Eric Adams, who does nothing about the twenty percent of Black workers in New York living in poverty, twice the rate of impoverished white workers (osc.ny.gov). Whether in Rafah, Tel Aviv, New York, or Beijing, workers can't afford to be seduced by the bosses' cynical appeals to "their" nation. The capitalists' only loyalty is to profits—and all profits are created by working class exploitation, oppression, and murder.

Again, Columbia students are showing the way forward. Their encampment was built by a multiracial force of Arab and Jewish students, Black and Latin, Asian and white. Their unity and solidarity must continue to guide us. In the 1968 Columbia rebellion, anti-racist students were no less brave in taking on the cops. But like much of the anti-war movement, most of them deferred to the idea of "self-determination," the idea that workers would fare better under Vietnamese capitalist bosses than under the French or U.S. varieties. The tragic error of that position can be seen in today's Vietnam, where over 6,000 sweatshop factories employ more than 3 million people "who work their hands raw just to barely provide their families with food and shelter" (medium.com, 10/24/23). Our class has learned this lesson the hard way: Workers have no borders!

From all the rivers to all the seas, communism will set us free

We can't predict the spark that will set off the inferno of the next world war. But it's becoming clearer all the time to workers and students that capitalism is in crisis. It's growing more obvious each day that the imperialist bosses will turn to fascism to discipline both their own class and the working class. Sooner or later, rival superpowers will move beyond proxy wars and drag the international working class into a global conflagration. We have only one option: to organize to turn the horror of world war into class war. The fight for the workers of Gaza must become a fight for communist revolution. The two are inseparable.

PLP aims to unite the workers of the world and arm them with communist politics, to turn the guns around against the bosses, and to destroy capitalism once and for all. Our task today is to struggle on the campuses and on the job to expose the brutal reality of the profit system—and the necessity of building a mass PLP. From all the rivers to all the seas, only communism will set us free! JOIN US!

Columbia University

To free free Palestine—fight for communism, now's the time!

Thousands of antiracist students at Columbia University (CU) have taken a bold stance against the genocide in Gaza, staging an ongoing, five-day-plus protest on the campus's lawn 24 hours a day (see editorial on page 2).The killer KKKops have repeatedly attacked an encampment the students set up and arrested over 100 students. The NYPD is acting at the command of the racist, Zionist-loving bosses, led by CU President Nemat Shafik and the U.S. Congress.

Workers and students from around New York City have rallied outside the campus in support of the protest. Despite the arrests and other attacks, these bold students are staying the course and providing a powerful example to the working class worldwide of how to fight back and what winning looks like. When we resolve to not stop fighting the bosses, we are on the path to a communist world free from Zionism, other forms of racism/nationalism, imperialism, and capitalism.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends moved quickly to support the students and join the protests around CU. We brought supplies like blankets and towels for students sleeping on the lawn in the cold. We distributed countless newspapers, fliers, and chant sheets. We infused the students' strong, but nationalist calls for a "Free Palestine" with chants of, "To free Palestine, fight for communism, now's the time" and "Asian, Latin, Black, and white, workers of the world unite!" We commend the leadership of students fighting back while also calling for a plan to destroy capitalism (beyond divesting in only the most despicable racist capitalists).

The student-led fight back is inspiring students and workers at other colleges – even as many such institutions are breeding grounds for the bosses' racist ideas and members. Solidarity encampments sprung up at Yale and Harvard. Students at the New School launched a solidarity strike after the CU protest began. Students from the City University of New York (CUNY) led a march from nearby campuses to CU.

History of Fightback at Columbia

Columbia University's history is steeped in gutter racism and service to U.S. imperialism. "Of the ten men who served as presidents of King's and Columbia between 1754 and the end of the Civil War, at least half owned slaves at one point in their lives" (Washington Post, 1/24/17). Scientists at Columbia also assisted with the Manhattan Project, where U.S. bosses rushed to create atomic weapons used to massacre workers in Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II, an effort to intimidate the Soviet Union (New York Times, 10/30/07).



From Columbia University to the University of California student led campus occupations are schools for communism

But along with that history, comes a tradition of fightback against it. After a Students for a Democratic Society (which PLP was once very active in) member exposed the university's ties to the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), a fascist weapons think tank affiliated with the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), during the 1960s, students in SDS began an anti-war campaign on campus (Columbia University Libraries).

In 1968, Black students occupied Columbia's Hamilton Hall, in response to the college's IDA ties and a racist plan to create a gymnasium in Morningside Park that would restrict use for Black workers in Harlem. Only 12 percent of the gym would be open to the public (History.com, 7/7/20). Despite the college's multiple efforts to quash the struggle, the students were ultimately successful in getting the campus bosses to drop their affiliation with the DOD and the gym proposal altogether.

In more recent years, Columbia's grossly underpaid graduate student workers have held strikes against the college for better wages (New York Times, 11/24/21). Students have also been active against Columbia's racist real estate expansion and privatization of public land in Harlem, which has caused mass displacement of Black and Latin workers since the 1940s. (planners network.org, 10/14/09).

No free speech against genocide

As U.S. imperialism backs the mass slaughter of our Palestinian brothers and sisters overseas and tells workers any anti-Israel sentiment is "anti-Semitic," we see clearly that "free speech" on campus is tuned to which ideas favor the bosses. In the days since the encampment began, capitalist media and stooge politicians have united in denouncing the students as hostile to Jewish workers, pushing the lie that Zionism and Judaism are inherently linked (USA Today, 4/22). Yet of course, none of these clowns have had anything as forceful to say about the scores of workers and children in Palestine being killed daily by Israel. Or the Zionist trolls who have been walking through CU taunting the students by wearing the Israeli flag as a cape.

Liberal "nonviolence" is a farce

As of this writing, CU has switched its classes to online only in response to the encampment, restricting who can access the campus and adding more security guards (NBCNews, 4/22). Fascism is palpable in the air, and even though the encampment has been nonviolent, the bosses' violent response proves the pacifism they preach to workers does nothing.

Multiracial students leading the way

PLP will continue to be active in CU's demonstrations. We are holding discussions with the student organizers and hope to invite some to May Day on May 4th. Their rage at this system, when united with communist ideas and leadership, will guarantee the bosses' days are numbered, and we will all run society for the better without them. Dare to struggle, dare to win!

Labor Notes Conf

Solidarity with workers in Gaza, not labor union sellouts!

CHICAGO (ROSEMONT), IL, April 19 —"Arab, Jewish, Black and White, Workers of the World, Unite!" rang out as over 200 militant workers at the Labor Notes Conference rallied in support of the workers of Gaza. These workers are facing famine, illness, death, and destruction at the hands of the terrorist Israeli State with the full backing of the U.S. ruling class. Led by members of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and other labor organizers, the anti-fascist rally in front of the Hyatt Regency showed that workers from all over the U.S. are standing up to Israeli rulers' fascism. It will take a global communist revolution to smash capitalist Zionism, and the PLP is building our Party to do just that.

Labor Notes

Labor Notes is a media and organizing project started in 1979 to "put the movement back in the labor movement" per their website. This year was their largest conference to date, with about 5,000 attendees including rank-and-file union members, local union leaders, and labor organizers. The revisionist (fake leftist) leaders of Labor Notes showed their lack of revolutionary spirit by inviting Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson (and former Chicago Teachers' Union misleader) to speak on the first night of the conference. While Johnson is credited with helping get a symbolic ceasefire resolution through the Chicago City Council, meanwhile his administration attacks the working class in Chicago. He has increased the budget for the Chicago kkkops and supported them when they murdered Dexter Reed with 96 shots fired. He refused to allow permits to protest the Democratic National Convention and set an impossibly short 60-day stay limit for newly arrived migrants in the city shelters. With that record, he should never have been invited to speak at a conference for labor organizers who want to build a militant labor movement. Fake left politicians like Johnson serve the capitalist class, as do all politicians. The liberals just use more honeyed words to cover their poisonous attacks against our class.



Communists called for militancy

A comrade raised the idea of a rally at an earlier meeting of Labor for Palestine and continued to work with another organizer to have a rally outside the hotel. PLP members in Chicago brought a sound system and militant signs and other protesters brought banners from their areas. The rally started just before the planned speech by lying Mayor Johnson. The rally was spirited with energetic chants–"U.S. Imperialism Means, We Got to FIGHT BACK!"—and had enough angry people mobilized to take the street. The young people outside the hotel contrasted with the entrenched union hacks listening to his speech. Outside,

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INTERNATIONAL MAY DAY GREETINGS

Colombia



To celebrate the occasion of May 1, International Workers Day,Progressive Labor Party members in Colombia extend a warm and solidarity-filled greeting to our brothers and sisters of the international working class and in Colombia. This May Day we reaffirm our commitment to distributing CHALLENGE and that our newspaper will always be the workers' platform to spread our struggles, unmask our capitalist and imperialist oppressors and their political spokespeople, and be the first line of defense of our class.

In the heart of the neighborhood, student, peasant, anti-imperialist, and anti-fascist struggle in Colombia, we send a revolutionary greeting to the workers of the world on their day of struggle, organization, and honor, continuing the fight for a better world. We recommit to the fight to steer our class towards a revolutionary communist horizon led by the Progressive Labor Party (PLP).

We see that not a day goes by without the news reporting on the turbulent times we live in: bloody battles in the war in Ukraine, the collapse of mega banks like Credit Suisse and Silicon Valley, threats of nuclear war, saber-rattling between the U.S., Russian and Chinese imperialists who want to carve up the world, the volatility in the Middle East, World War III, the constant increase in inflation, a worsening of unemployment, racism, and poverty, thousands of migrants dead at the entrances to Europe and the United States in their desperate search for a better life and the dizzying growth of budgets and militaries of all world powers. All these problems are illustrative of the perpetual crisis of this capitalist system.

Faced with this bosses' onslaught, the workers of the world are organizing to respond to oppression by strengthening the struggles of farm workers in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico, by gigantic demonstrations in France, Germany, and Belgium, and by the fierce struggle of the workers in Palestine, among many other forms of militant fightback in the countryside and the city.

In a forum of the National Coordinator for Change, 23 associations, mostly fake left Social Democrats, raised the question: What to do in the face of the current crisis? To which the audience was unable to make proposals, demonstrating the urgency of political work to raise awareness among the working class. We distributed CHALLENGE and had several conversations, putting forth our revolutionary communist politics.

In a popular assembly in Soacha, a municipality near Bogotá, workers raised the need to achieve improvements in public services due to the high cost and hope for "solutions" with the new mayor recently elected. Our comrade presented a communist political analysis, raising awareness among workers about the importance of overcoming reformism and building international class unity.

Militant workers, PL'ers, and friends of the Party participate in the demonstrations and rallies against the imperialist wars in Ukraine and Palestine and in the fights against the sexist attacks against the working class, and the worsening of the crisis of capitalism at the national level. As the only alternative to achieve these changes, we always put forth a communist solution. To that end, we've been distributing CHALLENGE flyers supporting these struggles while agitating that we must fight for real change, for international communist revolution.

One of the goals of the PLP is the growth of the Party, qualitatively and quantitatively, to be able to lead our class and put an end to capitalist oppression. Why do we fight for communism? It is not just a question, but rather the only solution that we must tirelessly strive towards as we fight to win future comrades among our class brothers and sisters.

Mexico



The Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in Mexico sends a solidarity-filled and militant international greeting!

As fascism advances and the threat of imperialist war increases, our class resists, fights, and organizes itself to face racist and nationalist attacks. The working class will always respond to the call to fight. That's why our role as communist organizers is vital in maintaining the flame of the communist revolution amid the class struggle.

The PLP collective in Mexico is organized to participate in the commemoration of May Day, to turn it into a revolutionary, international, and communist celebration. We will bring our slogans, banners, and literature to the thousands of workers who will demonstrate in two cities of the country. We will march hand in hand with them and with all the workers of the world as one class. We wish you a communist and revolutionary May Day. Long live, long live, long live communism! Let it die, let it die, let capitalism die! The working class has no borders!

Pakistan

As we stand on the eve of May Day 2024, we honor the struggles and triumphs of the working class. We recognize the sacrifices made and the battles won in the fight for fair wages, safe conditions, and dignity. We stand in solidarity with the workers who built our communities, served our families, and kept the world afloat. We acknowledge the injustices still faced and the struggles still waged. And we recommit to standing together, united in the pursuit of a world where labor is valued, respected, and empowered. Solidarity forever! Workers of Pakistan, united and resolute, extend our solidarity to the international working class in the unwavering struggle for communism. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters across the globe, sharing a common dream of a communist world where exploitation and oppression cease to exist. From the factories of Karachi to the fields of Punjab to the coal mines in Pukhtoonkhawa & Balouchistan, we appreciate the universal struggle against capitalist tyranny and imperialist dominance. Our collective voice echoes the rallying cry: 'Workers of the world unite!' We will continue to organize, resist, and fight for a world where the means of production are owned by the people, not the profiteers. Long live international solidarity! Long live the communist revolution! Long live the International Revolutionary Communist Party...Progressive Labor Party.



Germany '23

NYC

May Day brunch bridges fighters past and present

BROOKLYN, April 14 - An intergenerational, multiracial crowd of nearly 120 workers and students gathered for Sunday brunch in preparation for May Day or International Workers Day. Each year, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) invites the working class to marshall under one flag, the red flag for the communist revolution.

The international working class, particularly students, is publicly exposing the duplicitous nature of the liberal ruling class. Since the 2020 elections, U.S. President Biden has folded on his promises to support reparations for slavery, address rampant police murders, create pathways for citizenship for migrant workers, and erase student loans. Instead of serving the needs of the working class, the ruling class is sending $95 billion toward Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan's militaries. Bosses also stamped sanctions against China, Russia, and Iran. This package demands that TikTok creators sell their stake in the company or face a ban in the U.S. (Reuters, 4/20). As one of the event's first speakers, a Black woman comrade, said, "The U.S. ruling class is continuing to leave millions dead, homeless and starving...our supposed leaders are more concerned with protecting profits and winning the public to blame rivals like China or Russia for the crises under capitalism."

PL'ers continue the momentum and victories of the past year

In reforms, misleaders often push us to put communist ideas and building the Party for revolution, on the back burner. The international fight against genocide in Gaza is no different. Some workers believe that fighting for a Palestinian state and exchanging the war budget for money for health and jobs is the solution. We challenge that even if workers from Iran to Palestine-Israel were to be freed from Israel and the U.S.' grip, the horror of capitalism and racist divisions that affect us all would still exist. No matter what immediate gain we seize from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or U.S. President Joe Biden, they have the state power to turn around the victory, and bosses like them always do it.

PLP is involved in active militant fightback to affirm that eliminating the profit-driven system is the only way to break out of this prison. We need a mass multiracial, antiracist, antisexist communist party with deep roots in the working class to break free. Unlike individual reforms and pushes for nationalist sovereignty, developing and sustaining an internationalist party that makes class politics primary is the hardest victory for the ruling class to overthrow. Hosting social events like the recent Sunday brunch, paired with militant, collective actions like our May Day march, is a tactic we use to deepen our roots and our understanding of communist ideology.

Turn reformist fightback into revolutionary wins

Each table contained a bowl with printed guided questions. One question read, "What is the difference between communism and socialism?" Another Black woman comrade explained that communism at its core is equality and community. Following this discussion, one veteran comrade took the stage and reminded us that what we do counts. "People remember what you do; you might not always agree with friends politically, but what you do in the face of struggle counts." Workers and students also shared the history of May Day, ranging from comrades in Chicago being murdered for organizing workers in Chicago to fight for the 8-hour work day in 1887 to the Soviet Union, where workers turned the imperialist World War II into a class war for workers to run one-sixth of the earth's surface. We solidified that we stand on the shoulders of great movements and have the opportunity that they didn't to learn from the past.

During the brunch, we lovingly remembered our comrades who passed and reflected on their commitment to dedicate their lives to building the party. We sang Bella Ciao with these comrades in mind and lifted comrades who recently battled attacks. One teacher spoke about openly supporting students who wrote a letter to demand the school administration take a stance against anti-Jewish racism AND anti-Muslim racism. In retaliation, this anti-racist worker was held for 100 days in a room akin to solitary confinement. Days after this comrade was removed from his school, over 100 students, with their parents' support, immediately sent letters of protest to the school administration, superintendent, and school chancellors. This fight, amongst others, proves that we, as workers, have the stamina to forge a communist world when we have confidence in the working class and commit to building a fighting party. What we do does count.

We have nothing to lose but our chains

As members of the Progressive Labor Party, we carry with us a rich legacy of 59 years of struggle. Throughout the decades, our unwavering dedication to empowering the working class in the fight for communism has defined us. Our ongoing mission is to mobilize the working class, challenging capitalist elites' dominance and resisting oppression across every facet of our existence. Our journey is etched with tales of resilience in the face of adversity, victories hard-won, and the somber acknowledgment of setbacks endured.

As workers and students, May Day is our day to raise our red flags unabashedly and unafraid. May Day is our day to declare the need for an internationalist communist party in the face of Israel-U.S. sanctioned ethno-nationalist genocide, sexist terror, and racist murder from NYC to Haiti. May Day is our day to stress and cement the wins of our struggles. We must build the foundation and a long-range outlook toward communist revolution and egalitarian world-building to win the world we deserve. Progressive Labor Party is organizing May Day marches in Brooklyn, D.C., L.A., and Chicago this year. We are marching with our friends, united with us in smashing racism, smashing borders, and building an internationalist communist Party under the banner of PLP. From all the rivers to all the seas, communism will set us free.

Bronx: rally against genocide in Gaza

The Bronx, NY–The newly formed Common Ground student club at one Bronx CUNY (City University of New York) campus took the lead in mid-March and called for a Rally Against Genocide in Gaza on the steps of our community college. A multiracial, multigenerational group of about twenty people including students and staff held a spirited picket line and rally – it included student leaders from a Parents Club, students, professors from a nearby community college, and union members. Short speeches were given as different people stepped up to the mic. One speaker pointed out how the Democrats and the Republicans are all the same and that voting will never put an end to the genocide. Another student spoke about the need for us to get more students involved and to see this struggle as our struggle. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members linked the racist austerity we are facing on our campuses and the bosses' imperialist wars in other countries— that we are also in a war with CUNY as classes are cut, adjuncts are fired, our cafeterias are closed, etc.

We chanted "Arab, Jewish, Black, Latin, white—to smash genocide we must unite! We were warmly received and greeted by students and over 50 CHALLENGEs were distributed. This was the first public action on campus against the genocide in Gaza, inspiring others to plan more rallies and events.



CUNY students rally in front gate. Students and workers of the world deserve a communist world

Fight racist gentrification & displacement!

Early April saw a different type of event on a neighboring campus. Community organizers from the South Bronx and Chinatown joined in a conversation about what is happening in New York City (NYC) with displacement and gentrification. About 35 students and staff joined the discussion, followed by a delicious meal of Oaxacan food. The two speakers focused on sharing their experiences in the movement. We heard first-hand about the sharp struggles that have been going on for years in Chinatown. The first speaker laid out the falsehood of identity politics. He explained how growing up he learned the goal was for marginalized groups to get a "seat at the table." But he quickly learned the truth while organizing against the Chinese American Planning Council (CPC), a non-profit that super-exploits thousands of immigrant Asian, Black, and Latin healthcare attendants, forcing them to work 24-hour shifts. This speaker also denounced Jonathan Chu, Chinatown's biggest developer/landlord, who is the head of the board of the Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA). Chu has accepted a $35 million deal in exchange for supporting a new mega jail in Chinatown. That's not a "seat at the table" for workers. It's just big profits for the capitalists. The speaker made a very clear case of why workers must reject nationalism and identity politics and fight all bosses, no matter what they look like.

The second speaker has been working directly with migrant families in shelters. It was vital to hear what is happening to migrant families in NYC and not be-

Continued on page 7

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



Raising my voice for workers in Gaza and for May Day

I spoke at a Rutgers University action in Camden, where students took over the Campus Center, demanding that Rutgers' Board of Governors break ties with Israel. One student condemned Rutgers for being the largest university in New Jersey, while homeless and drug-addicted workers sleep below train stations in New Brunswick, where their main campus is located. Still, solving the homeless and addiction crises are not priorities of capitalist rulers of the academy. Rutgers President Johathan Holloway, a self-proclaimed Civil Rights scholar is instead partnering with Tel Aviv University to build a $665 million 'Hub' that will include cybersecurity research. This contradiction, highlighted by the students, resonated with me as a worker in the city of Newark. I work as a nonprofit worker, where the push for community development is explicitly advertised to Black and Latin workers as a solution to crumbling infrastructure and super-exploitation.

I shared with the students that the same night that students were demanding a ceasefire, workers who live in an apartment complex, Georgia King Village, owned by a 'community developer,' L+ M, were crying out to the multicultural City Council and Black liberal Mayor Ras Baraka about deteriorating housing conditions. These workers were met with empty promises by their city councilman to regulate developers while in the next breath, the council voted to give L+ M another 30-year tax abatement.

At the same time that we're fighting against racist displacement in Gaza, workers are also fighting against racist displacement in Newark. All over, the ones we're fighting against are liberal servants of capitalism and imperialism and we need worker-student unity to win! I ended with the chant that PL'ers out at a Newark city council meeting remixed from 'No good politician in a racist system' to 'No good President in a racist institution!'

I also used this action as a chance to bond with a friend who is active in fights for a ceasefire in the surrounding suburbs of Newark. On the ride back, I asked them what they thought of the action and communist politics. They shared, "I think communism is most aligned with my politics, but I don't know enough about it." I shared CHALLENGE and the book that our club is reading, History of the U.S.S.R. by Andrew Rothstein. I also invited them to march with us on May Day.

This struggle is exposing our class's potential to wage a militant, multiracial, internationalist class war against the bosses, but we have to be in it to win it! The fight for communist revolution continues.

My first PL workshop: 'I felt heard'

Even though I wouldn't consider myself a beginner to communist theory if I'm being honest, I was still pretty anxious about attending a Progressive Labor Party (PLP) workshop for the first time. In addition to me generally being an anxious person, it'd also be my first time attending any sort of communist collective, so I didn't really know what to expect. Maybe I'd be too far behind in my knowledge about communism, and I'd end up not having anything to add to the discussion. Maybe I'd be unknowingly too reformist, so even if I did attempt to add something to the discussion, it wouldn't be worthwhile at all, or it'd just end up being completely regressive.

In actuality though, my interaction with the PLP was nothing like my apprehensions. All its members were extremely kind and welcoming. Rather than feeling talked down to during our discussion, I played an active role in it, and I felt that my ideas were truly being heard and engaged with. In one workshop, titled, "Why Communism, Why PLP?", we critiqued a quote by Jay-Z, underscoring its attempt to conflate radical racial progress with upward class mobility within capitalism's inherently oppressive hierarchy. We also discussed what communism meant to us personally as people from a diverse set of backgrounds, and (re) affirmed that a more equitable, communist future could only be done through a grassroots revolution by the global working classes, and not through superficial reforms by the ruling classes.

This is a collective that I'd keep returning to. I loved that, in addition to analyzing work by Marxist theorists, we also analyzed media and media figures that are more prolific within mainstream culture. This cultural analysis demonstrated that capitalism implicitly undergirds a large swath of the media we consume and that consumption done uncritically is bound to be accompanied by an uncritical acceptance of the oppressive ideologies and material conditions that said media is silently reproducing. Furthermore, what this cultural analysis also indicates is that, in spite of attempts by the ruling class to suppress it, resistance to capitalism, and a pursuit of communism, pervade and continue to accumulate within capitalist culture, especially as global capitalist powers continue to support and facilitate Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, whilst repressing those who protest in opposition. Discussions like these are integral to a communist revolution, serving both as a site of revolutionary communist praxis, and, through the warmness of its Party members, their sociality, and their collective sharing of childcare (lol), as a site for revolutionary, everyday, communist practice.

Bringing solidarity to students against genocide

On April 17th, a couple of comrades with whom I have been organizing within a mass organization and I went up to Rutgers' New Brunswick campus to show solidarity with students who have been organizing around Palestine and were having a rally that afternoon. We wanted to bridge the gap between Rutgers Newark, New Brunswick, and Camden campuses, and discuss some of the organizing we've been doing not just in Newark, but in Teaneck, Morristown, and West Orange, making parallels between gentrification and imperialism while reiterating that the genocide in Gaza is an attack against workers worldwide. It isn't enough to just fight for a ceasefire or to call for divestment. We have to continue to organize and build so that we can wrest power from the bosses!

While the rally was happening, I found out that there was another rally being held by union faculty workers who were protesting President Holloway's cutting of the writing program at the college. I saw many signs that were similar to PLP's chants (e.g. The Students United Will Never Be Defeated; Make the Bosses Take the Losses). A Pro-Israel heckler disrupted the rally, and it led the Pro-Palestinian students and union faculty to split from one another.

I felt that it was a big mistake for many of the faculty to ignore the students and not show solidarity with them. After all, Holloway's attack on the writing program is the result of increasing attacks on the humanities programs in colleges, which is one of the hallmarks signs of fascism. We need to defend the humanities at all costs—which is where thoughts, ideas, and consciousness are spread. Furthermore, it was sad to see that one lone person could easily cause so much chaos and discord. It was a learning lesson, for sure.

Solidarity with workers in Gaza, not labor union sellouts!

Continued from page 3

speakers called for an end to arms to Israel and a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. A graduate student from Columbia University spoke eloquently about the bold fightback in support of workers in Gaza and against repression on that campus. A PLP comrade gave a speech calling out the inter-imperialist rivalries (mainly between the U.S., China, and Russia) that are making the world situation increasingly chaotic, dangerous, and headed for wider wars. The PLP member also pointed out the hypocrisy of Labor Notes having the Mayor as the keynote speaker when Black workers and newly arrived migrant workers in the city are being attacked by his administration.

Cops Attack

The cops tried to move the rally away from the hotel, but the protesters stood their ground and refused to move. The cops then tried to arrest two of the protestors. Workers shouted "Let Them Go!" and grappled with the cops to free them. The attack by the police changed the focus of the rally to getting our comrades back, though there were still many chants in support of Gazan workers.

With the leadership of PLP members and some of the Labor for Palestine organizers, it was decided to send forces from the rally into the convention with a bullhorn. The breakaway group of more than 15 militant workers charged into the conference to disrupt the Mayor's speech and demand that he get our comrades out of police custody. The group scuffled with hotel security while fighting to get into the hall. A union hack inside threw a punch at one of the protestors to try to stop us. The mayor's speech quickly ended and he left. Some workers in the hall were inspired by the disruption and stood up and yelled support in solidarity, while others were upset and one even cried about the disruption on stage. There is serious work to do in raising class consciousness and building a fighting movement.



Our modest action was a step in that direction! Outside at the ongoing rally, the suburban Rosemont police were outmatched in both numbers and commitment. We held the street and surrounded the police car that held our comrade for almost an hour. The cops finally let the protestor out to cheers. The other protestor who had been taken away from the rally, was brought back and released without charges. We were shocked but excited to see the cops capitulate! Once both protestors were recovered, we ended the rally, victorious for the moment. For some reason, about an hour later, about 25 cops, some on bikes and some in riot gear eventually showed up at the hotel. Too little too late to stop the working class!

Leadership from PLP was essential in this event and gave new members some experience in putting forward the Party and sharpening the struggle. We debriefed about ways we could have done even more and were energized to keep going. After all, if the labor movement called a general strike to stop the flow of weapons to Israel, the U.S. imperialists would have to reconsider their genocidal actions. As the U.S. imperialists get involved in more and bigger wars, organizing more such actions will be needed. And that will include building our revolutionary communist Party. To that end, over 300 CHALLENGE newspapers were distributed at the rally, which will lead to more discussion with other attendees at Labor Notes about the need to make a revolution against capitalism.

Bronx students learn to fight, fight to learn vs. liberal fascism

Continued from page 5

lieve the news stories that migrants "have it made" or are staying in luxury hotels. In fact, one of the students present worked as a security guard in the Roosevelt Hotel, one of the main locations where migrant families were placed. He joined the conversation to share what he learned from meeting and talking to people there and pointed out how even in the richest city in the world, capitalism and racism create the most inhumane conditions for workers. The speaker, who is a part of a mutual aid kitchen, engaged the students by asking them how they felt about paying tuition knowing that at one time tuition was free at CUNY. She encouraged them to see the connections between constantly hearing that there is no money when we know that money exists - it exists for war, but not for education.

As the discussion opened up, several key points were raised, all pointing to the understanding that migration and movement are always a result of imperialism and U.S. foreign policy. People began to speak about U.S. policies in Latin America, the "dirty wars" of the 1980s, the sanctions, etc. One person who grew up in Chile shared about the brutality she witnessed growing up under the U.S.-backed dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Another professor spoke about hosting a migrant family and seeing first-hand the very difficult reality these families face every day.

Members of the college progressive group, The Bronx Action Committee, also gave brief speeches about the need for students to challenge racist austerity, get involved with the city-wide strike movement that is growing, and find ways to reach out to newly arrived workers in solidarity. Students, staff, and professors were invited to join the PLP Mayday in Brooklyn. Since then, several students, faculty, and staff have signed up to march with us!



Students and workers attended Hostos panel it's not a migrant crisis it's a housing crisis. Another world is possible under communism— where education will be lifelong and accessible to all.

Lessons learned on our Bronx campuses

These two events were important learning experiences. At the Gaza rally, we relied on students to lead, organize, and step forward, and they did! We saw the power of the unity between education workers with different job titles as we all marched and chanted together. We realized the power of "showing up" to support a struggle on a different campus.

At the forum, which was a conversation, we learned the importance of putting May Day forward in a mass and open way. We were encouraged as students, staff, and faculty expressed interest in marching with us on May 4. PLP will continue to make friends, distribute CHALLENGE, build ties with students and education workers, and fight for communist ideas. As we engage in these struggles we help to lead and learn how to lead even better.



RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

U.S. now directly involved in Israel's military operations

Wall Street Journal, 4/21–Biden...ordered the Pentagon to step up its efforts to protect Israel, and the U.S. military activated highly classified plans for assisting Israel in a crisis...A team of U.S. military personnel secretly went to Tel Aviv to work out of a missile defense operations center with their Israeli counterparts...bulked-up force of F-15E fighter jets... F-16s based in the region...Plans were made for Saudi and Jordanian planes to defend their airspace.

...The more than 150 attack drones that Iran launched first...would take five to seven hours to reach Israel. Then...30 land-attack cruise missiles with flight times of two to three hours. Last were ballistic missiles that would reach Israel in just a dozen minutes. Israel's Arrow system intercepted most of the ballistic missiles, while the two American destroyers in the eastern Mediterranean downed several others. An American Patriot anti missile battery in Erbil, Iraq, intercepted another one...drones, in the meantime, were shot down by a combination of American, British, French and Israeli aircraft...The White House had, at least for a time, avoided a wider war. ...

U.S. bosses use Israel as a forward operating base

Haaretz, 4/20–The U.S. House resoundingly voted to provide Israel with $26 billion in emergency assistance on Saturday, including nearly $14 billion in unconditional military aid...The bill's provisions include $4 billion earmarked to replenish Iron Dome and David's Sling missile defense systems and $1.2 billion for the Iron Beam defense system, designed to counter short-range rockets and mortar threats...$3.5 billion for the procurement of advanced weapons systems...$1 billion to "enhanc[ing] the production and development of artillery and critical munitions"... $4.4 billion will replenish military supplies and defense services...and $2.4 billion for current U.S. military operations in the region...

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked the U.S. Congress...saying it "demonstrates strong bipartisan support for Israel and defends Western civilization"...

The battle between imperialists for West Africa continues

Al Jazeera, 4/20–The United States will withdraw its soldiers from Niger as the West African nation is increasingly turning to Russia and away from Western powers. The US Department of State agreed to pull out about 1,000 troops from the country that has been under military rule since July 2023...The US built a military base in Niger to combat armed groups that pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda and ISIL (ISIS)...Like the military rulers in neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso, the West African nation had kicked out French and European troops following the military takeover. All three countries have now turned to Russia for support, with Moscow confirming earlier this month that it has sent military trainers and an air defense system and other military equipment to Niger as it deepens its security ties.

Ukrainian workers pay the price in inter-imperialist conflict

Foreign Affairs, 4/19–After more than two years fighting one of the world's most powerful armies, Ukraine has enacted a new mobilization law...army commanders demanded 500,000 new soldiers..."Even the most determined [soldier] will consider this to be an eternal contract"...the original draft mobilization bill...proposed to mandate demobilization after 36 months of active duty. But that provision was dropped because of pressure from military leaders, who feared they would lose their most experienced troops...

...In early April, the president also signed into law a bill lowering the military mobilization age by two years, from 27 to 25...the military understands that soldiers in their 20s are fitter and recover faster, allowing them to bounce back from injuries and return to the front...a young person who has experienced a concussion from an explosion may be able to recover from temporary hearing loss, whereas someone over 40 faces a higher risk of permanent deafness...

The war is already estimated to have caused hundreds of billions of dollars in damage...Entire industrial regions and large corporations have been destroyed...Millions of professionals have left the country, and multiple economic sectors have simply disappeared...

MAY DAY

FROM ALL THE SEAS TO ALL THE RIVERS, COMMUNISM WILL LIVE FOREVER!

Continued from page 1

into dust, murdered untold thousands including aid workers. The U.S. rulers' are scrambling to hold on to their top-dog status, tested by rival imperialists from China and Russia. The rulers are staring down the barrel of World World III as the situation grows hotter in the Middle East, Ukraine, and Taiwan. When faced with these dilemmas they have no choice but to rip off their liberal democratic mask and break out their fascist mask. The Middle East is a tinderbox with the fascist Israeli and U.S. rulers at war with Iran. It's a future that can only promise world wars and nuclear holocausts.

The question we must ask ourselves from now is, what is our vision for a new world for a better future? Capitalism or communism?

Only one can guarantee freedom for the working class from all the rivers to all the seas.

A future under capitalism looks like millions more workers starving, homeless, and unemployed.

It looks like killing our children's potential with mediocre education or being drafted in the next world war. It looks like working till you're in your grave. It looks like millions dying in hurricanes, droughts, pandemics, or at the hands of killer kops. It looks like more Gazas, Haitis, and Congos.

Many of us are infected by the rulers' toxic ideologies of individualism, nationalist ideas, and electoral politics. Misled workers wave nationalist flags instead of the red flag. The goal of national liberation was a dead end then and it's a dead end now.

Nationalism is a fire that will engulf the world in conflict. From the rivers to the seas, only communism can put out that fire. It will set us free!

The history of nationalism was inked in the blood of our class. Yesterday it was Nazism that killed millions of Jewish workers. Today it is Jewish nationalism (Zionism) that commits genocide of our class siblings in Palestine. It's nationalism that dupes workers in Israel with the false promise of protection under a Jewish state, a promise only the few ruling families in Israel enjoy while most live under extreme inequality and are forced to conscript and die for the Jewish star.

At the same time, an independent state won't mean liberation for workers in Palestine. Like most former colonies, it will be the same capitalist prison. Before October 7, the Hamas and The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) rulers that managed Palestinian oppression already proved that this would be the case. Working-class resistance is happening, but it will be drowned under nationalist misleadership.

A future under communism would be vastly different. It is a world without borders where all workers are free to move across all the rivers and all the seas whenever need arises. A communist world looks like food, housing, education, and healthcare for all. It is a world where our labor helps us all lead full and meaningful lives. Communism means our society's greatest assets would be workers' collective knowledge and labor. Communism means that the people who make things run will rule the world.



A communist world means collectively owning our labor and the land. It means all children can unleash the full potential of our class. It means ending the cycle where some kids excel while other kids are disposed of, and become soldiers or prisoners, or gun statistics. Only communism means all children — Black, white, brown, girl, boy, or non-binary— from all the rivers and all the seas will have a future to succeed in.

From the seas to the rivers the working class can have it all if we're in power!

There are billions of us. Workers are like oceans, we are everywhere and our potential is bottomless. The working class will seize power through revolution.

We see these glimmers of our class' infinite potential. From the East River to the Arabian Sea we are the workers in NYC who ran mutual aide kitchens and distributed PPE to when liberal rulers left many of us to die. We are the workers in Pakistan who organized medical camps and food banks when we were left reeling after the rulers' flood disaster.

From the Acech River to the Mediterranean Sea, we are the fishery workers in Indonesia who brought drowning Rohingya refugees to shore. We are the fishery workers in Lampedusa, Italy who rescued hundreds of African and Arab migrants from the dangerous waters of the Mediterranean.

From the Jordan River to the Red Sea, we are the working class in Palestine fighting to save lives amid bombs and death. We are doctors tending to thousands of bomb injuries and delivering babies in collapsing hospitals. We are the journalists doubling as rescue teams to save those trapped in the rubble and countering Zionist propaganda.

We are the international working class. Only we can keep us safe in times of crisis. We are who we've been waiting for.

So now's the time to fulfill our revolutionary mission. Now's the time to organize! Now's the time to reclaim our lives and get free. Check us out, grab a CHALLENGE newspaper, and follow us @plpchallenge. We need every one of you to fight for communism!

Fellow comrades—young, older, present and future—we call on you to join or recommit to the Progressive Labor Party this May Day. Together we can build the communist world we all so desperately need and deserve, struggle by struggle, brick by brick. Let's smash this capitalist, imperialist, genocidal system once and for all! We have a whole world to win!

From the rivers to the seas, communism will set us free! From the seas to the rivers, communism will live forever!

Celebrate May Day with PLP near you

Brooklyn
Rally & March May 4th, 12PM
Clarendon & Flatbush Ave

Chicago
May 3, 6PM Union Park
May 4, 2-5pm dinner program
Humboldt Park Fieldhouse 1440 N Humboldt Blvd

Los Angeles
May 4th, 3-7 pm
Jazz Park 4222 S Central Ave

Massachusetts
April 27 at 12 PM
Lafayette Square in Cambridge (at corner of Main Street and Mass Ave)

WASHINGTON, DC
Saturday May 4 3-5 pm.

You can't smash the bosses without passing the hat!

The Progressive Labor Party unites the working class to learn to fight and fight to learn. This year's project is organized around connecting the struggles against police terror. Our goal is to raise our confidence that we are one world, one working class and capable of building a party to fight for communism! To donate, scan the qr code or go to www.plp.org and click, "donate." Follow us on social media! @plpchallenge



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